

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF ARTS

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS – SEMESTER I – 2023/24

SOC 1101 – Fundamentals of Sociology

Duration: **Two (02) hours**.

Answer **Four (04)** questions only.

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1.
 - i. Define 'social structure'. (2 marks)
 - ii. What is the main assumption of a structural theory? Explain with an example. (3 marks)
 - iii. Explain with an example, how social structure becomes an important concept for a sociologist analysing a particular social phenomenon. (10 marks)
 2.
 - i. What is a perspective? Define. (2 marks)
 - ii. Why is Functionalism considered a consensus theory? (3 marks)
 - iii. Outlining the key characteristics of the Conflict Perspective, explain with an example, how a conflict theorist would analyse a certain social phenomenon. (10 marks)
 3.
 - i. What are the steps of the scientific method? (2 marks)
 - ii. Why is a sampling frame necessary for selecting a probability sample? (3 marks)
 - iii. Assume that you want to conduct a qualitative study people living with HIV. Write a short essay, providing justifications, on how you would select your sample, which techniques you would use for gathering data and the ethics you would have to consider in such a study. (10 marks)
 4.
 - i. According to Max Weber, what are the two essential characteristics of a science? (2 marks)
 - ii. Why did Max Weber introduce the concept of an 'ideal type'? Give reasons. (3 marks)
 - iii. Why did Max Weber consider bureaucracy to be the most efficient form of organisation? Critically discuss your answer. (10 marks)

5.
 - i. Name two theorists who contributed to the development of Symbolic Interactionism. (2 marks)
 - ii. Who authored the book *Asylums*? What group was the book written about? (3 marks)
 - iii. According to G.H. Mead, "Man lives in a world of meaning". Explain this statement with examples. (10 marks)
6.
 - i. What are the key ideas of Melford Spiro's definition of religion? (2 marks)
 - ii. Briefly describe 'secularization'. (3 marks)
 - iii. According to Max Weber, how did the Protestant Ethics contribute to the emergence of capitalism in the West well before the East? Discuss. (10 marks)
7.
 - i. What is social mobility? (2 marks)
 - ii. Explain the fundamental differences between sex and gender. (3 marks)
 - iii. 'Women play a significant role as the primary caregiver in the family. Fulfilling her primary responsibilities introduces certain limitations to how she performs her other social roles.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain with examples. (10 marks)
8. Briefly explain the following sociological concepts.
 - i. Ethical dilemmas in conducting research (5 marks)
 - ii. Dramaturgical theory of social interaction (5 marks)
 - iii. Empathy (5 marks)
